

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Original) A method of generating ascorbic acid, comprising:

- a) obtaining a recombinant yeast capable of converting an ascorbic acid precursor into ascorbic acid, wherein the yeast is functionally transformed with a coding region encoding L-galactose dehydrogenase (LGDH) enzyme having at least about 90% similarity with SEQ ID NO:11,
- b) culturing the recombinant yeast in a medium comprising an ascorbic acid precursor, thereby forming ascorbic acid, and
- c) isolating the ascorbic acid.

Claim 13. (Original) A method of generating ascorbic acid, comprising:

- a) obtaining a recombinant yeast capable of converting an ascorbic acid precursor into ascorbic acid, wherein the yeast is functionally transformed with a coding region encoding L-galactose dehydrogenase (LGDH) enzyme having at least about 90% identity with SEQ ID NO:11,
- b) culturing the recombinant yeast in a medium comprising an ascorbic acid precursor, thereby forming ascorbic acid, and
- c) isolating the ascorbic acid.

Claim 14. (Original) A method of generating ascorbic acid, comprising:

- a) obtaining a recombinant yeast capable of converting an ascorbic acid precursor into ascorbic acid, wherein the yeast is functionally transformed with a coding region encoding L-galactose dehydrogenase (LGDH) enzyme and the coding region encoding the LGDH enzyme has at least about 90% identity with SEQ ID NO:12,
- b) culturing the recombinant yeast in a medium comprising an ascorbic acid precursor, thereby forming ascorbic acid, and
- c) isolating the ascorbic acid.

Claims 15-40. (Cancelled)